GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:77
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2017
Fluoride in Drinking Water
Khan Shri Md. Badariddoza

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the States affected due to fluoride, arsenic and other heavy metals contamination in drinking water across the country indicating the number of habitations/villages so affected;

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide safe drinking water to these States, including West Bengal and the time-limit fixed by the Government to provide safe drinking water in these States;

(c) whether the Government is providing any special assistance to these States in this regard, if so, the details thereof and the targets fixed for these States, State/ UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government is satisfied with the achievements made in these States, if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in this regard along with the future planning for the next three years, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the budgetary provisions made, funds released and utilized for tackling contamination in drinking water during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.77 due for reply on 20.07.2017

(a) State-wise number of habitations affected by fluoride, arsenic and other heavy metals as reported by the States into integrated management information system (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 14th July, 2017 is at Annexure-I.

(b) to (d) Rural drinking water supply is a state subject. For improving the coverage of safe drinking water to rural population, this Ministry supplements the efforts of the states by providing them with technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). It is the State Governments who plan, design, approve, execute and operate & maintain schemes for providing clean drinking water. Up to 67% fund allocated to the states can be utilized for coverage & tackling water quality problems. Further, 5% of the NRDWP funds are earmarked for Water Quality and allocated to those states with habitations affected by excess chemical contamination and with high priority districts affected by Japanese Encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome. Water Contamination is highly dynamic in nature and Ministry has not fixed any time-limit for the States to provide safe drinking water to affected habitations.

All the States have been asked to focus on providing piped water supply schemes from safe and perennial surface water source in water quality affected habitations. As immediate measures, States have been provided an amount of Rs. 800 Crores in Mar 2016 as 100% grant by Government of India on the recommendation of NITI Aayog to provide 8-10 litres per capita per day of safe drinking water in arsenic and fluoride affected habitations for drinking and cooking purposes, as short term measures through Community Water Purification Plants. In addition, funds to the tune of Rs.100 Crore each are also provided for tackling arsenic and fluoride problems in West Bengal and Rajasthan respectively for the last mile connectivity in commissioning surface water based piped water supply schemes. The overall achievements made by the States are satisfactory, based on the ground condition and while in some of the works which are in progress needs to be completed quickly.

In addition to this, the Ministry has launched a National Water Quality Sub-Mission on 22nd March 2017 to provide safe drinking water to about 28,000 arsenic / fluoride affected habitations in the country in a span of 4 years. During February-March 2017, under Sub-Mission programme, funds to the tune of Rs 814.13 crore have been released to arsenic and fluoride affected States for completing ongoing piped water supply schemes. During the current financial year 2017-18 under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), Rs. 1000 Crore has been earmarked for National Water Quality Sub-Mission on arsenic & fluoride. In July, 2017 Rs. 171.9 Crore has been released to Telangana State as part of 1st installment to cover 966 fluoride affected habitations through 27 new piped water supply schemes. Five more states have also submitted their proposal to get the funds under National Water Quality Sub-Mission.

(e) Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), Up to 67% fund allocated to the states can be utilized for coverage &

tackling water quality problems. Further, 5% of the NRDWP funds are earmarked for Water Quality and allocated to those states with habitations affected by excess chemical contamination and with high priority districts affected by Japanese Encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome. State-wise funds allocated, released and expenditure incurred under NRDWP during the last three and current year (as on 12th July, 2017) is at Annexure-II.